

REMARKS

Claim 5 is amended, claims 12-14 are added, and claims 5-8 and 12-14 are pending in the present application. No new matter is introduced. Applicant requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Amended claim 5 recites, in part, a filter region having a property of scattering or absorbing the signal beam and the reference beam, and being configured to receive only a non-collimated portion of the signal beam or the reference beam projected thereonto. In contrast, U.S. Patent No. 7,002,891, to Horimai, is silent with respect to a filter region that only receives the non-collimated portion of the signal or reference beams and that can absorb or scatter the received portion of the beam. Horimai only discloses an optical information recording medium 1 including a disk-like transparent substrate 2, an information recording layer 3, a transparent substrate 4, and a reflecting layer 5. (See column 11, lines 40-63). It appears that the Examiner considers that Figure 6 of Horimai shows that a beam spot diameter of the beam between the disk-like transparent substrate 2 and the information recording layer 3 is larger than a beam spot diameter of the beam focused on the reflecting layer 5. However, Figure 6 of Horimai simply shows a signal beam or a reference beam actually projected onto the optical information recording medium 1.

Furthermore, claim 5 recites, in part, a minimum width of the beam spot incidence region being substantially equal to a beam spot diameter of the signal beam or the reference beam at a diffraction limit thereof. In contrast, Figure 6 of Horimai does not show the relationship between a beam spot diameter of the signal or reference beam at a diffraction limit thereof and a width of the beam spot incidence region of the reflecting layer 5. In fact, Figure 6 illustrates the beam converging completely onto the reflecting layer 5 and is void of any filter region that receives all of the collimated light at a periphery of an incidence region having a width substantially equal to a beam spot diameter at the diffraction limit.

As discussed in more detail in the specification of the present application at page 3, line 25, to page 4, lines 1-12, to achieve holographic recording and reproduction with high

sensitivity, it is desired to prevent non-collimated light generated by optical system noise light sources, such as a collimator lens, mirror, and the like, from projecting onto the holographic recording medium as noise light. Accordingly, it is desired to return only a collimated signal beam and reference beam to the recording layer. According to claim 5, this non-collimated or noise light is removed from recordation via the filter absorbing or otherwise scattering the noise light.

Accordingly, as discussed in the specification of the present application at pages 11-13, a holographic recording medium according to an embodiment of the present application, provides for recording and reproducing holographic data where substantially only a collimated signal beam and reference beam is reflected by the reflective layer toward the recording layer while non-collimated signal and reference beams are scattered or absorbed by the reflective layer so as not to return to the recording layer.

In contrast to systems that employ a spatial filter to remove noise light, a system according to an embodiment of the present application as claimed in claim 5 does not restrict the type of optical system that can be employed, as discussed in more detail in the specification of the present application on page 4, at lines 5-24.

Since Horimai fails to disclose every element of claim 5, Applicant respectfully submits that Horimai does not anticipate claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly, amended claim 5, and claims 6-8, which are dependent from claim 5, are allowable over Horimai.

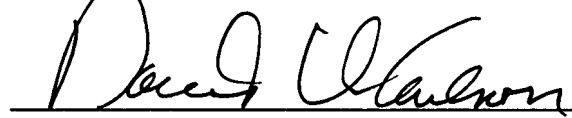
All of the claims remaining in the application are now allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/782,072
Reply to Office Action dated February 14, 2007

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David V. Carlson", written over a horizontal line.

David V. Carlson

Registration No. 31,153

DVC/NAS:jg

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5400
Seattle, Washington 98104
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

910719_2.DOC